NSF Highlights

Booster Seats in Beijing, China: A Qualitative Study

Highlight ID: 15087

The city of Beijing is home to an estimated 14 million people and 2.8 million vehicles; this large vehicle population is continuing to grow -- nearly 1,000 automobiles are added to the roads per day. This sharp increase in the traffic burden in Beijing has come with steep consequences for the city. The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that more than 600 people and 45,000 are injured daily on China's roads. Intervention programs are currently in place in major Chinese cities to increase awareness of the importance of seatbelts; however, the subject of child passenger safety is not very well known or promoted.

Booset Seats in Beijing, China: Study by an I/UCRC.

Permission Granted
Credit: The Center for Injury Research and Prevention, The Childrens Hospital of Philadelphia

This study utilized open-ended focus group discussions to identify Chinese parents' beliefs and potential barriers relating to child restraint use. A total of ten focus groups were executed in four districts of Beijing. Each of these focus groups was comprised of 6 to 12 parents who had children between the ages of 3 and 8 years of age. Facilitated by staff members of the Beijing Centers for Disease Control, the discussions focused on parent's experiences in the car with their child, and their attitudes and beliefs relating to child restraint, specifically belt-positioning booster seats (BPB). The study also gathered parent's feedback on existing international programs relating to BPB use. Following the discussion, parents were provided with a BPB, and educated on how to properly install and use the seat with their child.

Two questionnaires were distributed during the focus group, one prior to and one following the start of the discussion. These forms elicited participant's beliefs relating to BPB, and will be used to determine changes in beliefs over the course of the group. In addition, six weeks after focus group date each parent participant received a phone call from a member of the study team to gather parent's attitudes and beliefs after owning a BPB for a longer time period.

All data analysis is forthcoming, and will be handled primarily by the Beijing CDC and Monash University.

Primary Strategic Outcome Goal:

- Disciplinary/Interdisciplinary Research (Anything not covered by one of the 12 categories below.)
- International Collaborative Research

Secondary Strategic Outcome Goals:

- International Research Experiences for Undergraduate & Graduate Students
- Public Understanding of Science
- Research Resources and Tools (other than Cyberinfrastructure) (definition)

How does this highlight address the strategic outcome goal(s) as described in the NSF Strategic Plan 2006-2011?:
This research is important because crashes are becoming more and more common on roads in China.

Does this highlight represent transformative research? *If so, please explain why.*
The National Science Board has defined transformative research as "Research that has the capacity to revolutionize existing fields, create new subfields, cause paradigm shifts, support discovery, and lead to radically new technologies." National Science Board: Enhancing Support of Transformative Research at the National Science Foundation

No

Does this highlight represent Broadening Participation? *If so, please explain why.*
The concept of broadening participation includes: individuals from underrepresented groups, certain types of institutions of higher education, geographic areas (e.g. EPSCoR states), and organizations whose memberships are composed of institutions or individuals underrepresented in STEM or whose primary focus is on broadening participation in science and engineering. It is important to note that underrepresented groups vary within scientific fields.

Yes

The research broadens participation on a global level.

Are there any existing or potential societal benefits, including benefits to the U.S. economy, of this research of which you are aware? *If so, please describe in the space below.*
It is important for NSF to be able to provide examples of NSF-supported research that have or may have societal benefits.

Yes

To US child seat manufacturers, this study could help open a new market in China. For the Chinese society, it will help avoid preventable death.

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Award Title: CChIPS - Center for Child Injury Prevention Studies

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Institution Name: The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia

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NSF Investments: Human and Social Dynamics

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